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COUNCILMAN BERLIN BOYD WILL INTRODUCE ORDINANCE DECRIMINALIZING SMALL AMOUNTS OF MARIJUANA

Councilman Berlin Boyd will introduce on Tuesday, August 23rd, at 10am in the Public Safety Committee of the Memphis City Council a new ordinance to institute a civil penalty for the knowing possession or casual exchange of less than one-half ounce of marijuana in the City of Memphis. Councilman Boyd believes that it is time to recognize, as has been done in many other municipalities across the country, that bringing individuals into the burdensome and expensive criminal justice system is not commensurate with the crime of possessing a small amount of marijuana.

The ordinance would institute a \$50 civil penalty for amounts less than one-half ounce of marijuana, with the possibility for community service as well. The ordinance is similar to a recent ordinance up for first reading in Nashville.

For more information, please contact Andrew Mathewes at 636-6793.

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